## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

Case No. 7:20-CR-167-M-3

JORDAN DUNCAN,

Defendant.

\_\_\_\_\_

MOTION HEARING

JANUARY 15, 2021

THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUDGE RICHARD E. MYERS II

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

## APPEARANCES

On Behalf of the Government

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On Behalf of the Defendant

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Risa Kramer, RMR, CRR Official Court Reporter United States District Court Wilmington, North Carolina

## TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 1 2 (Proceedings commenced at 9:57 a.m.) 3 THE COURT: If the clerk would please call the case. 4 THE CLERK: USA versus Jordan Duncan. 5 THE COURT: Counsel, please state your 6 7 appearance for the record. 8 MR. TARLTON: Yeah. Yes, Your Honor. 9 Raymond Tarlton on behalf of Mr. Duncan. 10 MS. KOCHER: And Barbara Kocher, sir, on 11 behalf of the United States. 12 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, counsel. Good morning, Mr. Duncan. 13 14 THE DEFENDANT: Good morning. We're here on the defendant's 15 THE COURT: 16 appeal of the order of detention from Magistrate Judge 17 Gates. The Court has read the transcript of the prior 18 detention hearing and the motions -- or papers in the 19 case. I've also seen Judge Gates's order and read the 20 pretrial services report that was included on the 2.1 docket. Are there any other new written materials that 22 I should be aware of at this point? 23 MS. KOCHER: Your Honor, I did have one very 24 small exhibit that I could add to the record at this 25 point.

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THE COURT: All right. And the Court has
1
2
    not seen the exhibits. So if we have copies of the
3
    exhibits, that would also be helpful, but I'm assuming
    that this -- this is a de novo hearing. To the extent
4
5
    that the parties wish to rely on information previously
6
    submitted or testimony that has previously been adduced,
7
    I'm happy to do that. To the extent that the parties
    wish to put new testimony in, I'm also happy to do that.
8
9
    I will leave it to counsel to decide how best to put in
10
    the evidence in a way that is useful to them,
11
    expeditious, and they believe will be helpful to the
12
    Court.
13
                MS. KOCHER: Your Honor, in the main, the
    government would be relying on the substantial evidence
14
15
    submitted at the hearing. I do have a copy of each of
    those exhibits if you would like for me to hand those up
16
17
    at this point.
18
                THE COURT: Yes. That would be great.
19
    Thank you.
20
                MS. KOCHER:
                             Thank you. I do apologize.
2.1
    They're not necessarily stapled or collated in any way.
22
    If I may approach, sir.
23
                THE COURT: Thank you so much.
24
                MS. KOCHER: I would note, Your Honor, as to
25
    Government's Exhibit 6 therein, what I've handed up to
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you -- actually, if I can switch -- what I handed up to
1
2
    you is the redacted version that's in the public record.
3
    If the Court -- it's unimportant. It's the redaction of
4
    a juvenile's name, so it's not --
                THE COURT: That's not essential to the
5
6
    Court.
7
                MS. KOCHER: All right. Thank you, sir.
                The only evidence that the government would
8
9
    be interested in submitting today are a few additional
10
    pages to what the Court now has in front of it as
11
    Government's Exhibit 6, which was a series of Instagram
12
    messages back and forth between this defendant,
13
    Mr. Duncan, and co-defendant Paul Kryscuk. There are a
14
    few more pages that -- as events have transpired within
15
    the last ten days -- that would be significant for the
    Court's consideration. If I may approach with a copy --
16
17
                THE COURT: Have those been provided to
18
    defense counsel?
19
                MS. KOCHER:
                             Yes, sir. Actually, discovery
20
    has been fully provided, but I do also have a copy for
2.1
    him this morning.
22
                THE COURT:
                           Okay.
23
                MR. TARLTON:
                              Thank you, Your Honor.
                MS. KOCHER: I have labeled this Government
24
25
    Exhibit 1 only because it's coming new into this
```

proceeding.

2.1

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. KOCHER: And if I can just point out to the Court by proffer, again, I note that Government's Exhibit 6 that had come in at the earlier hearing was the series of Instagram records. It was a very extensive record, and the government had just put in various pages for the Court's consideration. These are a few additional pages. I would note that the page numbers — that is, the blue banner at the top — don't necessarily follow Government's Exhibit 6 from the previous hearing, but they are in fact part of the same disclosure.

I would first note to the Court the second page of the current Government Exhibit 1. The exchanges are between what is noted as author JCD -- that would be this defendant, Mr. Duncan -- and Slim Reaper, Slim Reaper being the user identity by Mr. Kryscuk, the co-conspirator and co-defendant in this case.

I first call your attention to the bottom third of that page -- again, the blue banner at the top says page 436 -- with a reference to the Hilux Hornet. That is, for Your Honor's information, similar to an open-bodied Hummer. It is a Toyota vehicle on the Tacoma platform. Here in the United States, it is the

Hilux Hornet. It is used by Special Forces, most commonly known in the context of ISIS. It does have a mounted machine gun on the top of it. Mr. Duncan posts what appears to be a reference to the Hilux Hornet. I note that Mr. Kryscuk responds with some urban slang, and I would call that to the Court's attention. He says: I just "coomed." That would be a statement referencing ecstasy, Your Honor, or an orgasm. It becomes important for later in the point.

2.1

2.4

Turning to the next page, page 437,

Mr. Kryscuk responds: SF ZOG nerds don't be deserving

that shit. This is in respect to that Toyota Hilux.

The SF would be reference to Special Forces. ZOG would

be the ZIOG occupied government, or the anti-Semitic

conspiracy theory about the United States government.

They go on. All of this is -- conversations are

happening on August 8th.

There is a message that's unavailable right there at the beginning of the page. We don't know what Kryscuk posted, but what he responded to his own post was: You have no idea how much I hope this happens.

Duncan responds: That's pretty much happening, and asks Kryscuk: You saw the footage of the arrest they released?

Now, on this day in history, Your Honor, on

August 8th, the judge ordered the release of the body cam footage of the death of George Floyd.

2.1

They go on to say: He's -- and so the government assumes they're discussing Mr. Floyd -- like demonically strung out on meth and fentanyl. Those cops are getting acquitted, Mr. Duncan says, and if they don't it's judicial activism.

Kryscuk says: Imagine they get sentenced and Trump pardons them. Mr. Duncan responds: Ideal scenario, and follows with: Combined with Trump losing the election, then refusing the results. Again, Kryscuk responds: I "coom."

It is significant, Your Honor. I would note that Judge Gates did not say it in these exact words during Mr. Duncan's hearing, but in a co-defendant's hearing -- in regard to Mr. Collins' detention hearing, the argument was being made that there was no imminent threat by these persons. And Judge Gates noted that the plan and strategy are there, they're just waiting on the trigger. The events of last week do have that trigger mechanism in place.

I move on to what is marked as page 614 in the blue banner. This follows -- the previous two pages are discussions about different types of firearms. At page 614, Kryscuk asks Duncan: The primary question I

```
struggle with is do we strike now or wait until it gets
1
2
    that bad? And again, it's some text or photo that we do
    not have access to that they're referring to.
3
4
    Mr. Duncan says: Wait until it gets bad, and points out
5
    that they aren't an army, we don't gain anything by
    blowing our load before it even matters, to which
6
7
    Kryscuk responds: An army will rise when that starts
8
    happening.
9
                Your Honor, that would be the additional
    evidence on behalf of the government today.
10
11
                THE COURT:
                            Is there any significance to the
12
    material on 615? Or is that just included to...
                MS. KOCHER: I did -- I do tend to include
13
    the page before and after, just so that...
14
15
                THE COURT:
                            For context.
                MS. KOCHER: Context.
16
                I do know, Your Honor, that the reference at
17
18
    page 615 right below -- do you have a copy of the cap
19
    schedule?
20
                THE COURT: Mm-hmm.
2.1
                MS. KOCHER: Is -- when you follow that link
22
    on Instagram, that is what -- entitled something to the
23
    effect of "What happens to your cell phone when you're
24
    arrested." And it lays out the law enforcement platform
25
    that is used to access phones, to download phones, the
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UFED software. So the significance would be that they had an expectation and were preparing in the event of arrest and preparing their items for the ultimate download of their phones, would be the government's argument in that regard. But that is what that references.

2.1

THE COURT: Counsel, can you tell me what

I'm looking at in Exhibits 3 and 3-2? One is a Colorado

driver's license, name of Logan Grady. The other is a

Colorado driver's license, name of James Tyler Callahan.

MS. KOCHER: Yes, Your Honor. Each of the defendants was found to have possession of a false identification. The one for defendant Kryscuk was known to law enforcement before the arrest and searches because he had been using it to ship the manufactured weapons to the various places around the country.

The one in regard to Mr. Grady there, that is defendant Liam Collins. That was found at his family home in Rhode Island.

Mr. Callahan is this defendant, Your Honor,
Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan's false identification was found
within an official government travel passport at his
apartment in Boise.

THE COURT: And I think Judge Gates asked the question -- do we have an answer to the question of

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whether or not -- actually, I think defense counsel
1
2
    asked the question. Do we have an answer to the
    question of whether or not they explicitly requested the
3
4
    return of the official passport? I'm assuming that
5
    that's not a U.S. state department issued passport,
    that's a DOD issued passport?
6
7
                MS. KOCHER: That is correct, Your Honor.
8
    And if I can have just a moment.
9
                 (Discussion off the record between
10
    Ms. Kocher and the agent.)
11
                MS. KOCHER: So I don't have specific
12
    information that Mr. Duncan was asked only --
13
                THE COURT: Pattern and practice would have
14
    been --
15
                MS. KOCHER: -- by pattern and practice --
16
    correct.
17
                THE COURT: And Exhibit 4, whose telephone
18
    is that?
19
                MS. KOCHER: Your Honor, I will admit I gave
20
    you my own copies.
2.1
                THE COURT: Okay.
22
                It's a gear list. It has "chest rig, belt,
23
    new optic," et cetera. It looks like it's in Notes,
24
    which -- I'm not sure if this is -- I'm assuming this is
25
    not an iPhone, but it's the iPhone equivalent of Notes.
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MS. KOCHER: So screen shots of Wire do also have that look to it. There are two places where that could come from. One of the lists was recovered from --juvenile involved at the time.

THE COURT: Okay.

2.1

MS. KOCHER: And my sense is that that's what you're looking at. We do have another list that's actually even longer and greater from Mr. Duncan's Notes section of his phone. I just don't think that that one is it. But the one that was found in Mr. Duncan's Notes section on his phone was actually more complete.

THE COURT: And do we know if that list was compiled before the training exercise in Idaho?

MS. KOCHER: I'm unable to answer that question, Your Honor. I do know overall that the chatter on Instagram, the -- from, that is -- from the messages that we've been able to see, that that training event in July seriously ratcheted up their talk and their excitement about their plan. It was after that that Mr. Duncan switched jobs, took a pay cut, and moved to Boise. A lot of the messages from the government's prior Exhibit 6 indicate the work that they're gonna have to undertake once Mr. Duncan gets to Boise.

So I don't know when the list would have been made, but it is consistent -- it would seem

consistent to me if it came after that, once they had 1 2 practiced, once they had that going, and once the 3 excitement level had ratcheted up in regard to their 4 strategy and plan. THE COURT: Exhibit 6 is... 5 MS. KOCHER: Those are the Instagram --6 7 pages from the Instagram record of messages between 8 Mr. Duncan and Mr. Kryscuk. 9 THE COURT: So this photograph is -- the "Don't do this," do we know who that is and who took the 10 11 photograph or where it's from? 12 We don't -- we would call that MS. KOCHER: 13 a meme, I suspect. 14 THE COURT: Okay. 15 MS. KOCHER: Or that they were just sharing 16 that idea. Now, there was, as you can see from another exhibit there in front of you, that there was a list of 17 18 locations found that made reference to -- it literally 19 was just a list of locations, what we submitted at the 20 detention hearing, some of the street view shots of 2.1 those locations, and confirmed that each one of them had 22 something to do with either the power grid or a fuel 23 depot. 24 THE COURT: And the "Don't step on my 25 hustle" meme is a fake -- somebody faking green-tipped

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ammunition.
1
2
                And I'm assuming that this lengthy Instagram
3
    chat, the stuff that was called out as specifically
4
    important to Judge Gates is the stuff you want the Court
5
    to concentrate on.
                MS. KOCHER: Yes, sir.
 6
7
                And, Your Honor, I do have Exhibit 7, a
    video queued up. It's, I think, less than three minutes
8
9
    long, if you would be interested in viewing --
                THE COURT: Yeah, let's go ahead and -- I'll
10
11
    watch that.
12
                MS. KOCHER: All right. Thank you, sir.
13
                (An exhibit was played.)
                MS. KOCHER: This is Mr. Duncan on the
14
15
    right, sir.
                (The exhibit continued playing.)
16
                THE COURT: There was reference in the
17
18
    earlier testimony to short-barreled rifles. Do we know
    those are short-barreled rifles as opposed to AR
19
20
    pistols, and have those been recovered?
2.1
                             They are, in fact, short-barrel
                MS. KOCHER:
22
    rifles, Your Honor, and yes, they were recovered.
23
                THE COURT: Okay. And the other question I
24
    have -- sort of factual question. Is the pallet that
25
    was shipped, the one that contained the body armor, it's
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unclear from the testimony, but it appears that it was
1
2
    Collins' pallet and being shipped to Collins' address
3
    where this defendant also lived.
                MS. KOCHER: That's correct, Your Honor.
 4
                            Was it addressed to Collins?
5
                THE COURT:
                MS. KOCHER: It was addressed to Collins.
 6
7
                THE COURT: Okay. Any additional evidence,
    Mr. Tarlton, for the defendant?
8
9
                MR. TARLTON: Your Honor, I would like to
    present on the screen what have been admitted in Liam
10
11
    Collins's detention hearing as exhibits -- there were 18
12
    exhibits. I think it's docket entry 62. But my
13
    understanding is it was submitted to Magistrate Judge
    Gates in notebook form, and I have electronic copies I
14
15
    could put on the screen, and then...
                THE COURT: That's fine.
16
17
                MR. TARLTON:
                              Thank you, Your Honor.
18
                THE COURT:
                            I'm sorry, Ms. Kocher.
                                                     I may
19
    have cut you off. I'd asked earlier if that was all the
20
    additional evidence you have. Do you have any
2.1
    additional evidence?
22
                MS. KOCHER:
                             No, Your Honor.
                THE COURT: Okay.
23
                                    Thank you.
24
                MR. TARLTON: Your Honor, by just way of
    background, Mr. Collins had his detention hearing after
25
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Mr. Duncan had his, and so the discovery -- first
1
2
    discovery production occurred after our detention
    hearing. So Mr. Collins' counsel was able to go through
3
    some of the discovery production and identify documents
4
5
    having bearing on the points that both I've made for
6
    Mr. Duncan as well as he was making for Mr. Collins,
7
    that there was a lack of evidence as to imminent
    likelihood of violence under the Brandenburg and Hess v.
8
    <u>Indiana</u> doctrines. And that's, sort of, the context for
10
    this.
11
                Your Honor, this is a FBI investigative
    report focusing on Mr. Collins, and it discusses the --
12
    sort of, the origins of it based on a Newsweek
13
    publication where, I guess, Mr. Collins was identified
14
15
    as holding racist and, you know, right-wing ideology.
    want to go down to a highlighted portion.
16
17
                They highlighted that no imminent threat was
18
    identified at the time that they initiated -- conducted
    initial stages of this investigation, Your Honor.
19
20
                MS. KOCHER: Could you -- could you --
2.1
                THE COURT: What's our date?
22
                MS. KOCHER: -- just say which exhibit that
23
    is, if you would?
2.4
                MR. TARLTON: Your Honor?
25
                THE COURT: This was -- so we'll mark this
```

as Defense Exhibit 1 for purposes of this hearing. MR. TARLTON: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: And it's docket entry 62 in the... It's a part of docket entry MR. TARLTON: 62. I think that was an exhibit list. And it looks like the date of this memorandum or investigative report was back in May of last year, Your Honor, while Mr. Collins was still in the Marines. 

Your Honor, Exhibit 2 I'm about to put on the screen is what -- you've probably seen in the Iron -- what's called Iron March postings by Paul Kryscuk who's a co-defendant and sort of -- I believe even Magistrate Judge Gates characterized either -- it was either him or Collins would be seen, sort of, as the leaders of any kind of group that would be -- that my client was alleged to be associated with.

2.1

And I've highlighted portions of, sort of, this ideology here, or parts of it: that there's no way that this will be accomplished on a nationwide scale right off the bat; that it's not gonna happen overnight; eventual goal that may take generations of war to accomplish; again, qualifying things with statements of "when the time comes"; not advocating anyone to go out

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and do something stupid that will change nothing; be
1
2
    patient, our time is coming; the system is killing
    itself organically, it will collapse sooner than later;
3
    when that happens, hit the streets; when the time comes;
4
5
    again, characterizing it as a generational struggle.
                THE COURT: This is all from 2017?
6
7
    originally posted on Iron March?
8
                MR. TARLTON:
                               I believe -- yes, Your Honor.
9
    I'll go back to the...
                           Yeah, I've read the -- I've read
10
                THE COURT:
11
    the entire manifesto.
12
                MR. TARLTON:
                               Okay. Yes, Your Honor.
                THE COURT: So to the extent that the
13
    highlighting is just highlighting the fact that these
14
15
    things are issues for the future, I understand --
16
                MR. TARLTON: Okay. Yeah, that's absolutely
17
    the point.
18
                I'm gonna put on the screen, Your Honor,
19
    Exhibit 3. And these numbers are matching up with what
20
    was submitted by Mr. Collins's counsel. Looks like the
2.1
    date of this was May 22nd of last year. Again, while
22
    they're analyzing Mr. Collins, you know, they're
23
    pointing out that they have not identified an imminent
    threat.
2.4
25
                Your Honor, this is Exhibit 4, FBI
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memorandum, and I think it includes excerpts from Iron
1
2
            This memorandum is dated -- or investigative
    report is dated July 2nd of last year, but these are
3
    posts from 2016 or so. And I think a point we made at
 4
5
    the detention hearing in front of Magistrate Judge Gates
6
    is I don't believe there's any evidence my client even
7
    knew Mr. Collins when these posts were being made.
8
    fact, I think Mr. Collins was pretty young, like 16
    years old. He went into the military at a young age.
                                                             Ι
    think it was before this.
10
11
                THE COURT: Right.
12
                MR. TARLTON:
                               The extent Your Honor's
13
    already seen the Iron March, that's all that is.
                I'm putting on the screen, Your Honor,
14
15
    Exhibit 5.
                This is October 14th of last year, getting
    close to the arrest date; FBI investigative report that
16
17
    they had made decisions to arrest these gentlemen.
18
                THE COURT:
                           Can you scroll back up?
19
                MR. TARLTON:
                               Yes, Your Honor.
20
                THE COURT:
                            To the names.
2.1
                MR. TARLTON: Yes, Your Honor.
22
                THE COURT:
                           Right there.
23
                MR. TARLTON:
                               Yes.
24
                THE COURT: I'm not seeing -- he's living in
25
    Boise by this time?
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1
                MR. TARLTON: He is. Yes, Your Honor.
2
                THE COURT: Okay. That's what I was trying
3
    to figure out.
 4
                MR. TARLTON: He had taken the job.
5
                THE COURT: Thank you.
                MR. TARLTON:
                               I think this was the -- they
6
    thought that the conflict could be within the next five
7
8
    years.
9
                And this, I think, reflects the
10
    investigator's thoughts that they should be arrested in
11
    October in light of uncertainties about the November
12
    election.
13
                THE COURT: Okay.
14
                MR. TARLTON: Putting on Exhibit 6, the
    interview of Michael Collins, co-defendant Liam Collins'
15
    father. And this was back in October -- so after -- or
16
17
    late October of last year.
18
                I quess this is --
19
                THE COURT: This is the brother?
20
                MR. TARLTON: The brother -- right.
2.1
                THE COURT: Okay.
22
                MR. TARLTON: Your Honor, now I'm putting on
23
    the screen Exhibit 7. An individual, Maurino,
24
    investigated in connection with the other defendants in
25
    this case.
```

I'd just point out that this investigative report's from October 23rd of last year. I think

Maurino talks about getting a gun part for Mr. Kryscuk in the case of a rainy day as basically -- he described it as a breakdown in civil order in the world and denied any knowledge of any plan, specific plan.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. TARLTON: Putting on the screen, Your Honor, Exhibit 8. This is a report from November 2nd of

MR. TARLTON: Putting on the screen, Your Honor, Exhibit 8. This is a report from November 2nd of last year with Mr. Kryscuk's wife who had made reports about him to the FBI which helped fuel this investigation.

THE COURT: Okay.

2.1

MR. TARLTON: Again, I think she reiterates the same thing, lack of a specific plan.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. TARLTON: Your Honor, now I'm putting on the screen Exhibit 9. This is from November 4th of last year. I believe he's an individual that was -- might have obtained a firearm from Mr. Kryscuk. The highlighted portion shows this gentleman denying any specific plot.

Your Honor, I'm putting on the screen

Exhibit 10. This is my client's former supervisor at his workplace.

```
1
                THE COURT: Okay.
2
                MR. TARLTON:
                              This is Exhibit 11. Somebody
3
    that knew Paul -- Mr. Kryscuk. And my understanding,
    Mr. Collins's counsel made the point that Mr. Kryscuk
4
5
    sold firearms not just to white extremists.
6
                THE COURT: Correct. I saw that he was half
7
    African American.
8
                MR. TARLTON: Yes, Your Honor.
9
                THE COURT: This purchaser.
                              That's right.
10
                MR. TARLTON:
11
                THE COURT: Okay.
12
                MR. TARLTON: Showing now, Your Honor,
    Exhibit 12. This is a FBI investigative report from
13
    September 3rd of 2020, last year. This is a workplace
14
    review that -- it's my client's middle name, Calhoun.
15
    My understand- -- the takeaway is that -- again,
16
17
    underscoring that -- no evidence that he used his
    position of employment to further anything involving
18
19
    these allegations.
20
                Now I'm putting on the screen, Your Honor,
2.1
    Exhibit 13. This is an interview of my client's
22
    ex-girlfriend.
23
                THE COURT: Okay.
24
                MR. TARLTON: I think the takeaway is saying
25
    she never thought that they were actually plotting
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violence, despite being very critical of him otherwise.
1
2
                THE COURT: I get the gist of this.
3
                MR. TARLTON:
                               Yes, Your Honor.
4
                Presenting on the screen now Exhibit 14.
5
    This is from May -- an investigative report from May 26
6
    of last year; that they ruled him out of, I guess, or
7
    didn't have evidence of Mr. Kryscuk being a part of a --
8
    I guess, of a listed group.
                Putting on the screen, Your Honor, Exhibit
    15, an investigative report, FBI report from October
10
11
    22nd of last year; I quess another person who grew up
12
    with Mr. Kryscuk who was interviewed.
                That's the count of that, Your Honor.
13
14
                THE COURT: All right.
15
                MR. TARLTON:
                               Putting on the screen now,
    Your Honor, Exhibit 16. Looks like this is from
16
17
    November 18th of last year, NCIS investigative report
18
    for an interview of a Lieutenant Corporal Womack.
19
                THE COURT: It's probably Lance Corporal.
20
                MR. TARLTON: Oh, Lance Corporal.
2.1
    Lance Corporal, Your Honor.
22
                Your Honor, now I'm putting on the screen
23
    Exhibit 17. This is another interview of Paul Kryscuk's
24
    wife, Melissa, back in -- October 27th of last year.
25
                THE COURT: All right.
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MR. TARLTON: Your Honor, I'm putting on the
1
2
    screen Exhibit 18, last one, an interview back on
3
    November 13th of last year, NCIS interviewing -- looks
 4
    like First Lieutenant Pamlanye. It's Mr. Kryscuk's
    cousin.
5
                THE COURT:
                            Was there anything in particular
6
7
    you want me to take from Exhibit 18?
8
                MR. TARLTON: I thought that I had a
9
    highlight in there, Your Honor, but -- going back to his
10
    interview, he said he normally didn't take Mr. Kryscuk
11
    seriously with -- he said hateful, racist things, knew
12
    him well. I think that Mr. Kryscuk had made a ghost gun
13
    or, you know, something by that terminology but had
    never actually tried to get Mister -- his cousin to move
14
15
    out to Idaho with him.
16
                THE COURT: So the implication that he
    provides guns to folks who are not in the group as well?
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18
                MR. TARLTON:
                              Exactly. Yes, Your Honor.
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                THE COURT: Thank you.
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                MR. TARLTON: And then those -- those are
2.1
    the exhibits that were presented by Mr. Collins at his
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    hearing, Your Honor.
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                THE COURT: All right. They've been
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    previously admitted into evidence at another hearing.
    I'm assuming you want them admitted in this one as well.
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                MR. TARLTON: Yes, Your Honor.
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                THE COURT: All right. They're all
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    admitted.
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                MR. TARLTON:
                               Thank you.
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                THE COURT: Anything further, Mr. Tarlton,
    in terms of new evidence?
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                MR. TARLTON: Not in terms of new evidence,
    Your Honor. And we would stand by also the transcripts
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    that reflects the testimony of my client's father and
    description of the home and employment opportunities.
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                We also admitted some exhibits at our
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    detention hearing in front of Judge Gates that showed my
    client has employment opportunity with an individual
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    that runs an auction house.
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                THE COURT: That's the data entry position
    that was described by Judge Gates in his order?
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                MR. TARLTON: Yes, Your Honor.
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                THE COURT:
                           Ms. Kocher, the government bears
    the burden of demonstrating by clear and convincing
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    evidence danger to the community, or by a preponderance
2.1
    risk of flight. I'm happy to hear from you now.
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                MS. KOCHER: Thank you, Your Honor.
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                I would first begin with just a little bit
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    of reference to those 18 exhibits that were just
    admitted. If you review each of them closely, Your
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Honor, each of the exhibits contains information that would work against the defendant in this case as well.

2.1

The 2 May of 2020 exhibits that are from the FBI where no imminent threat was identified, the government would point out that this investigation had been pending for about six weeks at that time. The FBI had been involved about two weeks at that time. It has no bearing on the current imminent threat, even more so today than at the time of Mr. Duncan's original hearing.

As to the Kryscuk manifesto, the Defense Exhibit 2, it was, as Your Honor noted, written in 2017. It did appear to be a several-year plan. Several years have passed. And in an unusual -- to my experience -- they kept with it. They actually carried out and moved forward in their plan. They moved to Boise. They were on that path. Collins had posted that he was going to join the Marines, that they would be able to teach him what he needed to know. That happened. In fact, they have a "Praise Collins Day" because of the number of recruits he brought into the group, Duncan among them, and other military members.

Duncan was specifically recruited because of his intel and communications specialty in the military.

I'm sure you're familiar with that from the record.

Contrary to it confirming that there's no

imminent threat because of the reference to the future in that 2017 posting, in fact, the government would argue that it demonstrates their commitment to it, that it has lasted now -- we're going on four years, at least -- and they did take active steps, even more so, as I said, since that July training.

2.1

The video you watched, Government's Exhibit 7 -- Exhibit 7, by the way, was a compilation that was found just like that on the electronic devices seized at the time of the arrest. But there were also a number of video clips and other photographs. This particular video was a compilation that they had created of those pieces.

Going to the July 20 memo that noted the 2016 posts by Collins, I've referenced those. Those are where Collins lays out his intention to give four years to the cause, as it were, so that he can train. I would note at this point, too, that the evidence is replete with instances where military gear was stolen, body armor as well as less -- the PMAGs, or the polymer magazines that were used and shipped in bulk, literally, as well as tarps and sleeping bags and other items that wouldn't necessarily be able to be specifically tracked to a unit or person within the military.

The Michael Collins interview, Defense

Exhibit 6, I would note that his other son -- not Liam Collins but the other son he's referencing -- told the father that they had no plan for violence, that they just wanted to live off the grid. This is the same son who at the age of 16 was allowed to go to Boise for that live training. He's actually the individual that falls in that video, that you see fall at the one point. That is the younger brother -- and then flew by himself in September to San Antonio at Mr. Duncan's request and drove with Mr. Duncan when he moved to Boise.

2.1

Judge Gates, you know, specifically noted in regard to Mr. Collins' detention that all of this had been kept, apparently, from the Collins' father. And that interview only punches that side of that up.

I would note in regard to Exhibit 7 the interview of Joseph Maurino. Going back to Government's Exhibit 1 from this hearing, you might find a statement in there. I think it's in regard to that 600-page series where they're talking about an army. You'll see the phrase that they had "lost FF." And they discuss, yeah, but they're not gonna be able -- probably not get up to 50 but maybe a dozen. The timing of that is consistent with the argument that is pointed out in that interview that Maurino had with them. Maurino would be considered a founding father, potentially what is meant

by that "FF." So that only confirms that Maurino did have a following out, and it appears to follow that July training. He was present, and he is present in that video as well.

2.1

As to the interviews of Melissa Kryscuk presented in Exhibits 8 and Exhibit 17, note that those not necessarily highlighted for Your Honor here, but Melissa Kryscuk reports the presence of bomb parts in her home, which ultimately were found. And although she denies knowing any plan, that is to say Kryscuk having told her of any plan, Exhibit 17 specifically -- I believe it's going to be on page 61 of that exhibit -- she specifically talks about overhearing Duncan and Collins talking in the backyard. My -- and I don't have those Collins exhibits with me. My recollection is that she's talking about the lights going out or the power grid aspect. And when Duncans [sic] and Collins realized she was there within earshot, they quickly changed the subject or stopped talking about it.

The Vilardi [phonetic] interview, he notes

-- this is Defense Exhibit 9 -- that he did not want to

be a part of what Kryscuk was doing. That's in that

exhibit. I would just note for the Court that yet this

defendant, Mr. Duncan, didn't have that same clarity as

Mr. Vilardi and himself moved from San Antonio to Boise

with the assistance of a juvenile at that time.

2.1

The text in between -- and my note to myself as Exhibit 9 was being reviewed, there were two portions that were highlighted, and I would just draw you -- review that exhibit before you make your decision. The text in between those two highlighted portions -- I think they had highlighted the first and the last parts of a paragraph. The information in between would be relevant and is contrary to the defendant's position.

I would note, Your Honor, that Vilardi, that interview also sets out that he used the name Pius on Wire. It is Vilardi that that meme of the masked individual standing in front of the power station saying, "Don't become good at taking down" -- that actually came from Vilardi.

THE COURT: So Vilardi posted the meme, but Vilardi -- that's not a photograph that was taken from Vilardi, but he posted the meme.

MS. KOCHER: Correct. They are resharing this -- I can't speak to whether or not it is Vilardi.

But I do know that this Instagram account is resharing a post that had originally come from Vilardi.

The government -- referring to Defense

Exhibit 11, the government has never maintained that the sales were only to white supremacists; in fact, the

opposite. They used and intended to use the sales of the arms both to finance their group as well as to arm their specific group.

2.1

The ex-girlfriend at Exhibit 13 noted that the group sounded "culty," that she was never allowed to touch his phone, she was never privy to any conversations he has. Most importantly, Your Honor, the end of that interview ends with: She believed him capable of conducting violence toward black people before he was ever arrested.

In short, it's easy to pull a several-page interview and pull out the phrases that go to either side, as can be seen by what I'm now doing.

In regard to Exhibit 16, Lance Corporal
Womack, he had obtained an AR-15 and a suppressor from
this group. He had been asked by Collins to obtain 50
pounds of Tannerite, which is an explosive material sold
mostly to gun enthusiasts as a target that would explode
when it's shot. And it's used in small amounts. There
were -- the vast library of explosive information found
on Mr. Duncan's hard drive -- and I have said it in the
prior hearing as well -- there was information about
nerve toxins and poisonous gases and IEDs and remote
detonators and -- and again, "library" is an appropriate
term to use.

There was also research and information on the component of Tannerite that could be used and combined -- basically, the component that was in the bomb used in Oklahoma City. Is it ammonia?

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THE COURT: Ammonium nitrate.

MS. KOCHER: Ammonia nitrate. Yes, sir.

And that was one of the topics that they did talk about, that the group did talk about, was Oklahoma City.

Lance Corporal Womack talked about having been vetted on a phone call. Duncan was present on that phone call, and our other information suggests that that was a significant role that Duncan played. In fact, he had material indicating in the recruitment of others, find out what their viewpoints are, what their religion is, what their background is, and then explain what reading material you could give them that would match that most closely, to try -- I think a phrase that had been shown in one of the defense exhibits -- oh. think it's the Kryscuk manifesto, actually, where Kryscuk says to start radicalizing incrementally. This is grooming that we see in human trafficking. We see grooming in many aspects. And this -- they had their own grooming mechanisms, so much so that it was written down as to what written material to give whoever in this regard.

I would note -- turning to Defense Exhibit

17, it is the second of the Melissa Kryscuk interview -that in that interview, the task force officer who was
interviewing her tells her about Kryscuk surveilling the
Black Lives Matters, how he would pull his car up from a
certain viewpoint and then move it. And her response
was very simple: That's frightening. And I think that
encapsulates, essentially, the position we find
ourselves in today. It may have been a future plan. It
became to where it was imminent.

2.1

In regard to the Pamlanye interview at Defense Exhibit 18, I would only note that he explains that Mr. Kryscuk told him that the significance of the ghost guns was that the government won't know you have them. I would also note that Mr. Pamlanye, or Captain Pamlanye, rather, described Kryscuk as having these ideas that minorities needed to die, that they were not human. I would also note that Kryscuk -- in that interview, Kryscuk told Pamlanye to "Get here," which would be to Boise, which was their ultimate location.

Many acts. It's not even about free speech. He did things and he received and sent monies back and forth both in support of the firearm conspiracy with which he's charged as well as indicating his sincere intent

and involvement in the conspiracy, to the extent that it was to finance the group and to arm the group for a potential civil disorder. The evidence that was presented before Judge Gates, slightly enlarged here, just with the note that his ideal world that would make his co-conspirator "coom" is if Trump loses the election and then refuses the results. And while I'm not holding these and don't attempt to hold these defendants accountable for the breach of the Capitol last week, this is very likely the exact trigger that these defendants were waiting on, and it --

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THE COURT: Counsel, what's your best argument for why post-arrest he now poses an imminent threat of danger to the community? Not prearrest, but post-arrest now he poses an imminent threat of danger to the community or risk of flight?

MS. KOCHER: Because there are co-conspirators who have not been arrested who are still out in the community. He has access to them. He -- Mr. Duncan testified that this defendant didn't have much money and they were taking care of his finances on cross-exam and in argument and ultimately found by the Court. There is no truth between this defendant and his father, at least not on this defendant's side. And there is no way to know what resources this defendant

has, particularly with the community -- and by "community," his co-conspirators as well as like-minded individuals, if you will -- would share resources even through Go Fund Me pages. And the likelihood that he could garner support for flight and for ongoing action is significant and meets that clear and convincing burden in regard to danger and, the government asserts, preponderance as well.

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I would note the preparation of these defendants, Your Honor, is significant and goes toward the future dangerousness and risk of flight that you talk about. They have the capability, the knowledge, the skills, and the research completed for the -- they prethought -- everybody had a fake ID. They prethought, "This is what's gonna happen when our cell phones are searched, so let's do these things to protect them." They prethought -- the only window the government has had are the Iron March posts, which were ultimately made public back in 2019, which is, as you've heard today, is what kicked off the investigation. Their screen shots of their Wire chats -- Wire has been completely encrypted, but some of the things like -- it was an exhibit in the Collins hearing. Mr. Kryscuk had put out the four rules for the group, which was "Snitches end in ditches" -- right.

THE COURT: Yeah. That was before Judge Gates as well.

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MS. KOCHER: Yes. Thank you. So that is a screen shot of their Wire chat. So a lot of our information comes because they were keeping photos of the stuff, presumably, that's more important to them or that they want to have reference to as time goes on, Wire being an app that deletes itself when a time is set.

apologize that the Duncan and Collins hearings converge in my memory. One significant event that occurred, again going to their preparation and the government's difficulty in getting the actual words that they were using -- literally, the arrests had been planned for October 20th. My recollection is that's a Tuesday. The Friday preceding, a member of their group who was a police officer in Indiana was outed. An online petition circulated on that Friday seeking his dismissal from his job from the Indiana Police Department. That hit the mainstream news. He was then called in -- that police officer was then called in and dismissed from the force, I believe, that Saturday.

Texts were recovered between Mr. Duncan and that individual, which I can say that individual viewed

as a threat on him. Mr. Duncan strongly requested the individual to come out to Boise. He explained: I'm going to visit somebody in Florida.

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When that all was transpiring, we know through other interviews -- Womack, for instance -- that all the members of the group were directed to delete their Wire accounts entirely. So even through the process of arrest and talking with someone like Womack, we would have had access to the Wire account. It had been deleted literally within four days just prior to their arrest.

That goes again to the preparation, to their ability to hide their operational security. That will continue on post-arrest. We will have no ability, particularly with this defendant's knowledge of a foreign language, with his knowledge of intel and communications. He's trained by the military for these. It is a significant risk, Your Honor.

Finally, Mr. Duncan would be a risk to those persons who have cooperated with the government, or who have at least spoken -- "cooperation" may be a big word -- but who have agreed to speak and have provided information as have even come out in this hearing today, Corporal Womack included. And those members' safety is of large concern to the government as well.

THE COURT: Mr. Tarlton.

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MR. TARLTON: Thank you, Your Honor.

Your Honor, the government now argues that there is an imminent threat. Your Honor, as to the point in question -- and I think about what evidence they have of after his arrest, now that they're trying to say my client is an imminent threat in light of, for example, what happened at the Capitol last week. But after his arrest, what evidence do they have of -- under the principles of Brandenburg and Hess v. Indiana and NAACP v. Claiborne that he is engaged in advocacy directed towards producing imminent lawlessness or violence and a likelihood of that occurring? I would submit Your Honor is well aware he's been living in a veritable fish bowl with federal oversight since October.

He was arrested in Idaho. He's been incarcerated up there. He was ultimately transferred down here. And we finally had a detention hearing in December, and here we are in January. And they produced in discovery -- they've monitored his phone calls and everything else, and there's no evidence at all that he's engaging in speech that is directed at anything that is about to occur.

And so you know, Your Honor, when we take a

step back -- and I don't think you can take words or 1 2 expressive conduct from before his arrest and then --3 where there was nothing imminent at the time, and then take events months later and then bootstrap it together 4 5 to create what the law at least recognizes as the kind 6 of imminency that strips away speech and expressive 7 conduct from First Amendment protection. THE COURT: Counsel, I understand a lot of 8 9 these arguments are directed to the substance of the 10 charge and whether or not the conspiracy has advanced to the point where you think there's sufficient imminence 11 12 for the conspiracy charge to hold. And I'm familiar with the law. I'm familiar with the First Amendment 13 But the question before the Court today is current 14 15 danger to the community and current risk of flight, and --16 17 MR. TARLTON: Yes. 18 THE COURT: -- it will be most helpful to 19 focus on that because --20 MR. TARLTON: Yes. 2.1 THE COURT: -- that's the question I'm gonna 22 be answering. 23 MR. TARLTON: Absolutely. 24 Currently, as we stand here today, there is 25 no evidence that since his arrest this is a man so out

of control he is continue— -- or he's allegedly continuing to engage in directing anybody on the outside or the inside to do anything violent; that this federal intervention is showing -- kind of, in a sense, is undermining the government's case as to dangerousness. If he's the person that -- truly at his core that counsel for the government made him out to be, we would have seen some signs of that between now and -- between his arrest and today. When they're asking to detain on dangerousness, they're asking Your Honor to engage in, you know, engage in a process of what might happen in the future. And dangerousness normally is with people that really lack volitional control. And they are not presenting that to Your Honor.

2.1

And then I'd say flight risk, we really didn't hear anything from the government today on flight risk. My understanding at the original detention hearing, it was sort of this idea based on he had training in Russian when he was in the Marine Corps. That's about -- and he's not actually from North Carolina. Well, the case itself has an attenuating connection with North Carolina. There was an isolated sale by a co-defendant, allegedly, on Camp Lejeune.

He would be living in Pennsylvania with his parents where he'd have a job. He doesn't have any real

assets. His dad talked about he's not -- he's, I think, only 26 years old. He's not developed a lot of financial discipline, still owes money on a car, you know, older car. There's just no means to flee. There's no bank accounts or any evidence of that overseas. There's no family members or close friends overseas. There's nothing indicating a plan to flee the United States.

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And so as to flight risk, Your Honor, they haven't met their burden on either preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing. It's just not realistic. And then when you look at the nature of what he's actually charged with, one count of conspiracy, it has a five-year statutory maximum punishment, Your That's just not something that he's facing here today that he's going to abandon all of his ties in the United States, with no money, to go on the lam in places that don't have extradition. That's just not realistic over what he's facing and his actual -- the reality of his situation. And in light of potential defenses that he can raise that are not just on the substantive charges, just on the facts about his attenuation to any gun sale or -- or, you know, a conspiracy to engage in a civil disorder, with their own evidence shows that there was nothing at the time imminent. That's under the

Civil Disorders Act, that's -- imminency is effectively an element of the Civil Disorders Act.

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So he's got factual defenses. He has constitutional defenses. This is a presumption of release case under <u>Stack v. Boyle</u> and the Bail Reform Act. It's not a presumption of detention.

He -- again, no evidence of the kinds of things you would see that would show actual propensity and ability to flee. He would be supervised in Pennsylvania where there's obviously a United States Probation Office along with his parents providing -- who are, you know, credible, law-abiding people who will provide oversight and eyes and ears for the Court and probation.

And so it really does come down to dangerousness. And I think absolutely they lack that sort of evidence of no volitional control that would -- and the past is prologue. There's no criminal history here. There's no criminal convictions. There's no history of missing court, no history of convictions showing, you know, a total lack of respect for the court system and its court dates and hearing dates and anything like that that we see in other detention cases.

And so under the -- Your Honor's ultimate goal of weighing all of the factors under the Bail

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Reform Act, you know, our position as we've outlined in
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    our memorandum is that they just have not met their
    burden, Your Honor.
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                THE COURT: Ms. Kocher, I'll give you the
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    last word.
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                             Thank you, Your Honor.
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                MS. KOCHER:
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    believe at the outset I intended -- if I didn't complete
    the sentence -- to incorporate the government's evidence
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    and arguments from the prior hearing and --
                THE COURT: That's the Court's
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    understanding, that both parties --
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                MR. TARLTON: Yes.
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                THE COURT: -- are incorporating their prior
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    arguments.
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                MS. KOCHER: All right. Thank you --
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                MR. TARLTON: Yes, Your Honor.
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                MS. KOCHER: -- Your Honor, because I do
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    just -- given the comment there, I just wanted to make
    sure that was true.
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                I would respond with the statement that the
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    government has failed -- or that most danger is shown by
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    a lack of volitional control. I don't know if that's
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    accurate. I don't know if that's true. What I do
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    believe and what the government's position is in this
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    case, it's the exact opposite. The government's case is
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that this defendant in particular is smart. His knowledge of operational security is significant. There is more danger presented by this defendant who has been able to hide his activities, his belief, his -- from his job. He's kept his top security clearance, his top secret clearance, Your Honor, up until the day of his arrest, despite having just filled out a new SF-86 in January of 2020 denying any association with these types of groups. That is the crux of the government's risk of flight and danger as we go forward, is that it is not a lack of volitional control; it's the opposite.

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As to the imminency, Your Honor, the government has always argued that there is danger. And I believe in my evidence presentation this morning, my point about Judge Gates in the Collins hearing -- I didn't realize it was gonna come in quite so much -- is that the imminency is we don't know what the trigger for these defendants is. That makes it imminent. It's not when -- you know, they've not said that it's 2028. They've said it's this list of ideas, all of which are currently present. The Black Lives Matter protests were That was the first thing they got excited about. The COVID and taking out a higher rate of minorities than whites is part of it. That's actually on -- that's in a Collins exhibit on video during the gun exchange --

during the exchange of money for one of the guns that the government purchased from Collins. He, you know, is pleased to have COVID around to do part of their job.

2.1

We've got George Floyd and that entire thing, and that's where the Instagram thing we viewed in Government's Exhibit 1 today came forth.

The fact that this defendant has been trained, has utilized that training -- you don't hear it on the video compilation played in Government's Exhibit 7, but the other video clips from that training is the calling off of the military commands. It is definitely a military preparation that's happening on that field as they're firing those weapons. Duncan himself is shown in that possessing one of those short-barrel rifles in that video.

The government believes that it has met its burden both under preponderance for flight and clear and convincing evidence for ongoing danger and that this defendant should be retained in custody until trial.

I'm gonna try and take some time to review some of it before I come to a final conclusion. I understand the arguments. I'm gonna take a 20-minute recess. We'll come back at five minutes to noon, and I'll tell you where I am at that point.

(Proceedings recessed at 11:35 a.m.)

2.1

(Proceedings recommenced at 11:52 a.m.)

THE COURT: All right. Back on the record in the case of United States of America versus Jordan Duncan. This case involves an appeal pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3145(b) seeking an order revoking the magistrate judge's order of detention.

I'm not gonna revoke the order of detention at this time. I think this is a very close case, and it's one where I'm gonna order that the probation office in Pennsylvania conduct a home inspection so that we can determine what precisely the conditions might be in Pennsylvania where the defendant might reside, and to the extent -- and I want a report from the probation office on the feasibility of electronic monitoring and house arrest there.

This is a -- the defendant has a presumption of release in this case. It's not a presumption of detention. I understand Judge Gates's order and take his findings seriously. The Court needs additional information to determine whether or not it might be able to fashion conditions of release. So I'm gonna order that we have that finding made by Wednesday so that the parties can receive a report and we'll have a -- we'll continue this hearing until Thursday for a final

determination pursuant to 3145.

At that time, in the event that any new information has come to light by either party, I will consider that information at that time. What we're essentially gonna do is leave Judge Gates's order in place and continue it until such time as the Court has sufficient information from Pennsylvania to determine whether or not conditions can be fashioned in this case.

Any questions from either party?

MS. KOCHER: Not for the government, Your

11 Honor.

2.1

MR. TARLTON: Not from the defense, Your Honor. I have given probation again the full contact information for my client's father and address and everything. We'll work with them on helping them do what they need to do, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

All right, counsel. Thank you for all the hard work that's clearly gone into this case from both sides. As I said, this is one where the legal presumption is strong, and this defendant's personal criminal record is nonexistent. So this is one where the presumption is gonna be important. I'll need to know more. Thank you.

(Proceedings concluded at 11:54 a.m.)

## CERTIFICATE I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter. /s/Risa A. Kramer 2/7/2024 Risa A. Kramer, RMR, CRR Date